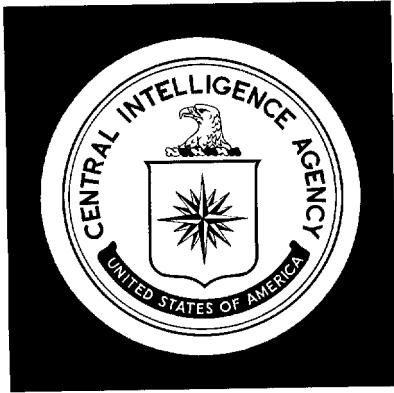


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The government faces growing opposition to recently imposed economic measures, including price controls and the take-over of the import and distribution of certain commodities. The disaffection, which has been centered in the north, has resulted in disturbances and the appearance of antigovernment leaflets and slogans. The regime is clearly concerned. Siad and other officials have toured the north, and the president has received protest delegations from this region.

Since coming to power in October 1969, the military regime has been troubled by numerous plots, tribal unrest, rivalries within the hierarchy, and public dissatisfaction with its policies. These problems would seem to limit the government's long-range prospects, but the opposition appears disorganized. Siad, moreover, is a pragmatic leader and he evidently retains the support of important elements in the army and the powerful national security service.

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